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LETTER DATED 30 JULY 1997 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Upon instructions from my Government and with reference to letters dated 17 October and 18 December 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations, contained respectively in Security Council documents S/1996/861 and S/1996/1061, concerning the report of alleged instances of violations by Iranian armed forces of the terms of the ceasefire between the two countries, I have the honour to draw attention to the redundancy of reporting by Iraq of the same case, and to their general unreliability and falsification, as follows:

1. Items 8 and 9 in S/1996/861 report an incident involving 11 Iraqi launches and Iranian patrol boats at 1830 hours on 29 September 1996, allegedly between Mina al-Bakr and Mina al-Amiq. The same incident is reported again by Iraq two months later in item 5 of S/1996/1061. However, the timing of the incident and the place where the incident had allegedly taken place are slightly changed in the redundant version, namely, to 1500 hours and Khawr al-Amayah harbour.

The factual circumstances surrounding the incident above are that it did not take place between Mina al-Bakr and Mina al-Amiq as Iraq first claimed in S/1996/861, neither did it take place in Khawr al-Amayah as claimed by Iraq later in S/1996/1061. The incident actually took place in Khour Musa canal inside the territorial waters of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Following the investigation and legal proceeding against the crews of the Iraqi boats seized in Iranian territorial waters, the boats which were found to be engaged in fishing were released, and the proceeding against the two boats in question is in progress.

2. In item 2 of S/1996/861, the Iraqi authorities attempt to implicate Iranians in a case where the crew of the United Arab Emirates tug Ocean Express was robbed. In item 4 of the same document, Iraqi authorities allege that two masked men shot and wounded a member of the crew of the tug Eagle and fled to the Iranian side.

Irrefutable evidence and documents, including the testimonies of the crews and captains of both Ocean Express and Eagle, which prove beyond doubt that the

assailants in both cases were Iraqis, are available at the Central Headquarters of the Coast Guard of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

3. Other items in the two documents mentioned above represent mere allegations by the Iraqi authorities against the Islamic Republic of Iran and, as in the foregoing cases whose fabrication was set forth above, are categorically rejected as unfounded and baseless.

It would be appreciated if this letter were circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Majid TAKHT-RAVANCHI
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.